

Amendments to the Claims:

CLAIMS

1. (Original) A seal for laparoscopic port comprising:

a base adapted to engage a cannula, the base including an axial aperture for a surgical instrument;

a multiplicity of jaws mounted on the base, the jaws being movable radially with respect to the aperture between an open position wherein a shaft of the surgical instrument may pass freely and a closed position wherein the jaws engage said shaft and provide a restraining force restraining radial movement of the shaft; and

an actuator rotatable to urge the jaws to move between said open position and said closed position;

wherein the actuator includes a click stop arrangement adapted to provide fictional engagement at a position intermediate the open and closed positions to hold the jaws at the intermediate position.

2. (Original) A seal as claimed in claim 1 wherein the click stop arrangement comprises a discontinuity on the actuator arranged to engage a complementary discontinuity on the base.

3. (Original) A seal as claimed in claim 2 wherein the discontinuity comprises a protrusion or recess on the actuator arranged to engage a complementary detent or protrusion on the base.

4. (Currently amended) A seal as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 wherein the click stop arrangement comprises a protrusion ~~of~~ or detent on the jaw adapted to engage a complementary formation on the actuator.

5. (Original) A seal as claimed in claim 4 wherein the click stop arrangement comprises a pin extending from each jaw, the pin being received in a recess in a guide on the actuator.

6. (Currently amended) A seal as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 wherein each jaw includes a follower movable along a respective guide on the actuator, the guide having inner and outer ends corresponding to open and closed positions of the jaw,

5 the guide further having an intermediate discontinuity adapted to engage the follower preventing closure of the jaw by providing a closure resisting force greater than said restoring force.

7. (Currently amended) A seal as claimed in claim 5 ~~or 6~~ wherein the guide is an arcuate channel or slot in the actuator.

8. (Original) A seal as claimed in claim 7 wherein the channel or slot is parabolic or exponential in shape.

9. (Currently amended) A seal as claimed in ~~any of claims 5-8~~ claim 5 wherein the recess is located on the radial inner surface of the guide.

Application No.: Not yet assigned
Amdt dated: November 16, 2005

10. (Currently amended) A seal as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 wherein the jaws are biased radially inwardly.

11. (Original) A seal as claimed in claim 10 wherein the jaws engage a lip of the resilient diaphragm and a biased radially inwardly when the diaphragm is dilated.

12. (New) A seal as claimed in claim 6 wherein the guide is an arcuate channel or slot in the actuator.